

The best history of the War with Spain will be found in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, from week to week.

# National Tribune

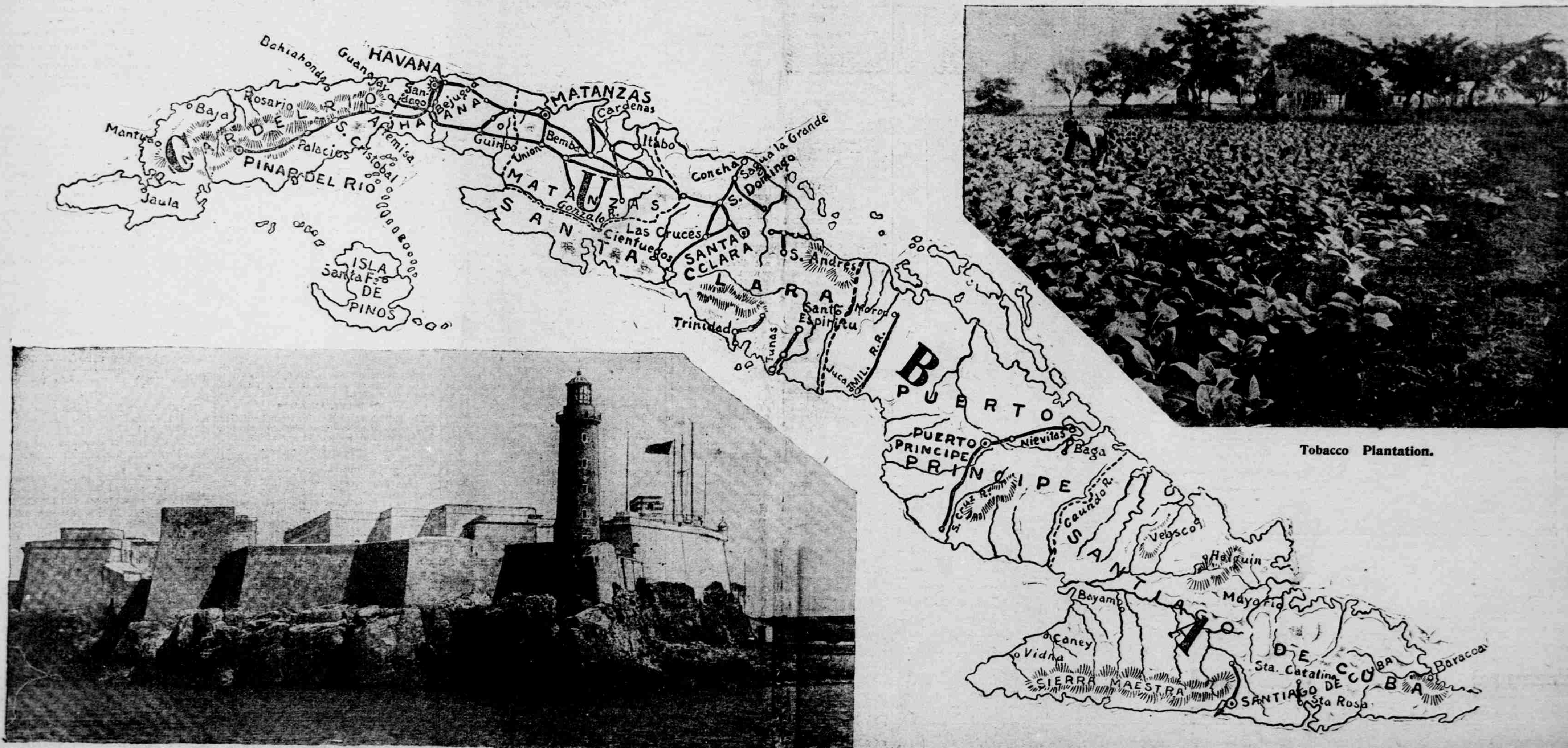
Our Great War Books are of intense interest at this time. See descriptions on 12th page.

ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES.

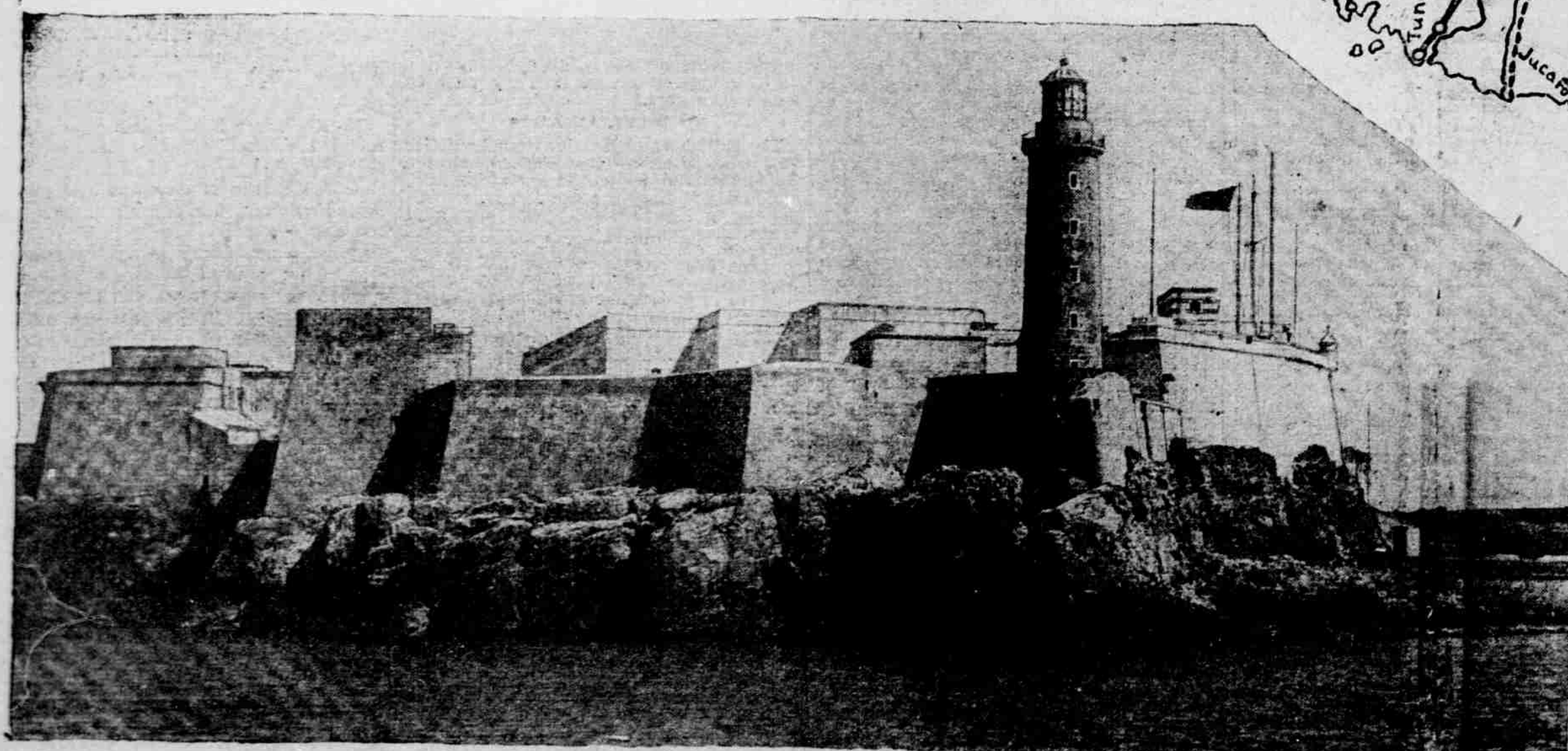
WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1898.—TWELVE PAGES.

VOL. XVII—NO. 29—WHOLE NO. 872.

## A New Field for American Enterprise—Cuba, Queen of the Antilles.



Tobacco Plantation.



Morro Castle—Near View.

### A Land of Magnificent Promise.

#### THE WAR OPENED

All the Legislative, Executive, and Diplomatic Preliminaries Completed.

#### A DECISIVE WEEK.

The Last Steps Toward Opening the Conflict Taken by Congress, President, Queen Regent, Cortes, Ministry and Admirals—The Diplomatic Decks Cleared, and the Dispute Handed Over to the Army and Navy for Settlement.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20.

Our record closed last week at Tuesday noon. The Spanish Cortes met Tuesday evening, and Señor Sagasta made a firm speech, concluding with: "Spain will not allow a parcel of her territory to be taken from her with impunity; nor will she be a party to any trafficking of her possessions." The conservatives formally announced that they would give the liberal Ministry a solid support in defending the National honor. The Queen Regent made a firm, dignified speech to the Cortes.

#### THE ULTIMATUM.

The President saw a number of visitors Wednesday morning, and at 11 o'clock dismissed a list of them, and entered the Cabinet room, where he found Secretaries Alger, Biss, and Wilson, Attorney General Griggs, and Assistant Secretary Day awaiting him. The latter had with him the ultimatum, which had been carefully drawn after laborious consultation with the best diplomatic authorities. At 11:24, amid impressive silence, the President seated himself at his desk, and wrote on the document, in clear, firm hand: Approved. William McKinley. April 20, 1898.

The text of the ultimatum was not made public until the next day, or after it had been officially presented to Spain. It is contained in the following telegram to our Minister at Madrid:

To Madrid, Minister, Madrid.

"You have been furnished with the text of a joint resolution voted by the Congress of the United States on the 19th inst., approved to-day, in relation to the pacification of the island of Cuba. In obedience to that act the President directs you to immediately communicate to the Government of Spain said resolution, with the formal demand of the Government of the United States that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and Government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters. In taking this step, the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination when that is accomplished to leave the Government and control of the island to its people, under such free and independent Government as they may establish."

"At the hour of noon on Saturday, April 23rd day of April, instant, there by that of Spain a full and satisfactory response to this demand and resolution whereby the ends of peace in Cuba shall be assured, the President will proceed without further notice to use the power and

While we are going to war with Spain for the noblest possible motive—that of a great, strong people to rescue from the clutches of their oppressors a weak people, who have been tortured, persecuted and down-trodden beyond all human conception, and while we stand ready to fight to the bitter end to accomplish this high purpose, and to shed our blood without stint, and spend our money like water, without a thought of deriving any material advantages from the same, yet there are limitless material advantages which will flow to somebody, and we can trust to Yankee enterprise to garner the bigger part of them.

To begin with, Cuba is no doubt the fairest, richest island on which the sun shines. It has a soil and skies not surpassed, scarcely equalled, in the world. The earth is simply opulent in her fertility there. More can be produced with less effort than anywhere else where men labor with earth for a livelihood.

Columbus pronounced the island "an earthly paradise," and it certainly would be but for Spanish misrule. This has not only blighted its productiveness, but its healthfulness as well. It is naturally one of the most healthful spots in the world, except where Spanish ignorance, filth and squalor have made it a hotbed of disease.

The Spaniards have always treated the island as they have every other colony, as a something from which they must squeeze the last available penny. When the inhabitants rebelled against this extortion they were murdered, with every accompaniment of cruelty. When the Indians would not work for them they cut off their hands, burned them at the stake, or slew them by thousands.

They have treated the colonists with which they replaced the Indians in much the same way. Few of the millions of dollars which they have annually drawn from the fertile soil have been allowed to go into their own pockets. Corrupt office holders, rapacious rings at Madrid, and horse-leeches of every kind from impoverished Spain, have incessantly bled them to the last point of exhaustion.

With our expulsion of Spain all this will cease. The American flag will take thither the same inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that the people of this country enjoy. Peace, happiness and prosperity will blossom in the ever-fertile soil like the flowers which make it a bower of beauty.

It will be the opening up of a land of golden promises to the enterprising, intelligent and industrious. No where else in the whole world can there be found to-day so many glorious opportunities for young men. It is far better than California 50 years ago, and a thousand times easier to reach. One million young Americans ought to find prosperous openings there inside the next five years.

The area of the island is 43,319 square miles, considerably more than there is in the great State of Ohio. It will comfortably support 10,000,000 people, yet owing to the prohibitive policy of the Spaniards against immigration, there are not to exceed 1,500,000 people there, largely ex-slaves and their descendants, and poor Spaniards, hardly better than the ex-slaves. There are tens of thousands of Chinese coolies.

No statistics are available as to the actual productiveness of the island. But it is known that even with the

crude, wasteful methods characteristic of ignorance and slavery, a ton of fine sugar can be easily raised to the acre. Tobacco, coffee, bananas, coconuts, pine-apples, oranges, lemons, shaddocks, figs, etc., are equally productive.

Elsewhere man has to work to make things grow. In Cuba he has to exert himself to keep them from growing.

The United States has taken as much as 98 per cent. of the exported products of the island. We buy abroad every year—and the greater part came from Cuba before the present troubles—\$140,000,000 worth of sugar; \$90,000,000 worth of coffee; \$17,000,000 worth of semi-tropical fruits and nuts, and an equal amount of tobacco. These are all crops of the highest ready-cash value. They represent nearly one-third of our total imports. The amounts increase every year. Americans ought to be engaged in their production. They will be when we have given Cuba what we have promised the world to do—"an equitable, just and stable Government."

The young men who are going down to the island as a part of the Army of Occupation will see the land's fitness and its splendid opportunities. They will stay there as growers of fruits, sugar, tobacco, coffee; as miners of coal, iron, gold, copper, and alum; as lumbermen, handling the magnificent forests of mahogany, ebony, cedar and builders, millers, machinists, railroad men, coastwise sailors and traders, and in the thousand and one other forms of business which will immediately develop when the selfish repression of Spain is succeeded by the peace and liberty of the United States.

Much the greater part of the island is yet covered with forests. There is a chance there for everybody, and the men who go down there carrying a broad, free civilization, in their cartridge-boxes will want to stay in a land of eternal spring, where they can raise two crops a year by a medium of work between meals. And they will write to their friends and relatives to join them. The island will become Americanized almost as rapidly as California was.

All this will be for the benefit of the Cubans themselves, for it will bring them all the benefits of prosperity which their military guests enjoy.

#### MORRO CASTLE.

Morro, (or Moro) Castle is simply a fortress of the middle ages that has survived to modern times. It is of heavy masonry with battlements, moat, watch tower and dungeons according to the approved style of a stronghold in the days of Knighthood and mailed armor and battering rams. It is about as effective to resist modern artillery as a chessbox. It is armed with a battery of small guns. The modern artillery has been placed in new works on the ground outside.

authority enjoined and conferred upon him by the said joint resolution to such extent as may be necessary to carry the same into effect."

A copy was immediately sent to the Spanish Minister in Washington, who instantly demanded his passports. He informed the State Department that he would leave Spanish interests here under the care of the French and Austrian Legations. His letter and his passports had both been prepared in advance, so that he was in receipt of the latter within a few minutes.

At 7:30 in the evening he and his suite left the city by the Pennsylvania Railroad. There was quite a crowd of curious people at the depot, but nothing in the least disagreeable occurred. Quite a force of police, both in uniform and plain clothes, were present, but they found nothing to do. The Minister went immediately to Canada, and took up his residence at Niagara Falls.

It was expected that Minister Woodford would immediately inform the Government of his presentation of the ultimatum, but the day passed without hearing from him. The Madrid papers announced that the Minister had received the ultimatum unofficially through their censorship of the telegraph, as it was telegraphed in plain English.

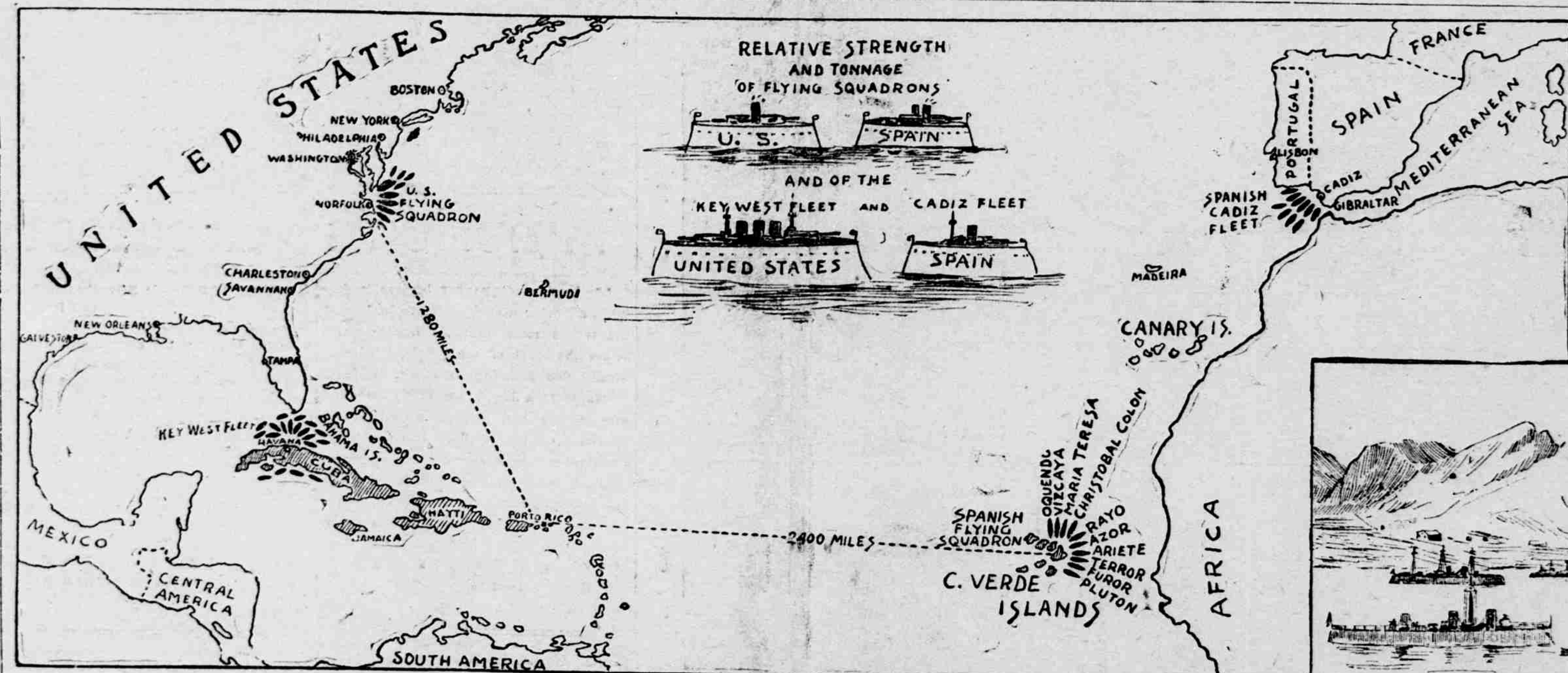
Minister Woodford sent away the remainder of his family, closed the Legation, and turned its papers over to the British Embassy.

Our Government gave out the following during the day: "In the event of hostilities between the United States and Spain it will be the policy of this Government not to resort to privateering. The Government will adhere to the following rules: (Continued on second page.)

#### WHERE THE MAIN SPANISH FLEET IS.

Porto Grande, St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands.

For weeks the Spaniards have been assembling a fleet at the Cape Verde Islands, the nearest point on the other side of the ocean to Cuba. This is 2,500 miles away. The Cape Verde Islands are a small archipelago, belonging to Portugal, which uses them for a penal colony, and are situated off the coast of Africa. They have a population of about 90,000, mainly negroes. Porto



### THE STRATEGY OF THE SEA.

We Shall Outpoint Spain Everywhere and in Every Way.

Gen. N. B. Forrest, the Southern Confederacy's great raider, was an uneducated man, but a natural soldier. He announced that the great principle of war was to "git the most men thar fast, and git the barge."

That is just what we shall do in the present contest with Spain. We have more and better men, more and better guns, more and better ships, and we have the shortest lines to reach any point of conflict. Spain will have to fight all the time at arm's length, while we can strike straight from the shoulder.

The accompanying sketch shows this very clearly. Cuba and Porto Rico lie directly off our coast. Our fleets operating about them are all the time near together, and very near home, whence they can be supplied to any extent with coal, ammunition and provisions. Any of our ships that get disabled is near a harbor of refuge and repair.

On the other hand, the Spaniards have to cross 2,400 miles of ocean before they get to the scene of action. Their coal must be exhausted, their ships storm-beaten, and far out of reach of help, supplies, repair and refitment.

This is of infinite importance in naval operations to-day, where the war-ship is a huge, complicated, delicately-adjusted structure, whose very life is coal. Without coal she is a helpless hulk.

The diagrams that we show give the comparison of the "paper" strength of the various fleets. This, after all, is deceptive, for the reason that while the United States ships are up to a very close percentage of their strength as it appears on paper, the Spanish are very far below it. No one knows what the actual fighting strength of a Spanish ship is, only that it is nothing like what it is represented to be. So that instead of the United States fleets being about double as strong as Spain's are, the probabilities are that they are three or four times as strong.



Porto Grande.

Grande, where the Spanish fleet has been lying, is a very fine harbor, but there is nothing around it from which to furnish important supplies, which have to be brought across the sea from Spain and Portugal. Its main importance to Spaniards making long voyages is in its fresh provisions. The latest intelligence is that, acting under protest from Washington, the Portuguese Government has ordered the Spaniards away, and that a couple of Portuguese men-of-war are in the harbor seeing that the order is obeyed.